

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 /067 W

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R 200355Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2524

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 1535

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJECT: FEDERAL OPPOSITION LEADER BILL SNEDDEN HOLDS PRESS
CONFERENCE ON RETURN FROM VISIT TO UNITED STATES

1. BILL SNEDDEN HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE DECEMBER 19
ATTENDED AND REPORTED BY ALL PUBLIC MEDIA.

2. ALMOST ENTIRE CONFERENCE WAS TAKEN UP BY QUESTIONS FROM
REPORTERS RELATING TO SPEECH GIVEN BEFORE THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN
RELATIONS IN NEW YORK WHICH WAS REPORTED IN AUSTRALIAN PRESS AT
THE TIME AS STATING AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT AUSTRALIA HAD NO
CLEAR GUIDELINES FOR OVERSEAS INVESTMENT. SNEDDEN IS REPORTED
TO HAVE SAID ALSO THAT AUSTRALIANS ARE NOW FACED WITH THE CHOICE
BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND FREE ENTERPRISE AND HE IDENTIFIED THE
LIBERAL PARTY, OF WHICH HE IS LEADER, AS THE ONLY SAFE ASSURANCE
OF A FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM CONTINUING IN THE COUNTRY.

3. SNEDDEN, ACCORDING TO REPORT IN THE AUSTRALIAN", WHICH
IS TYPICAL OF OTHER REPORTING NEWSPAPERS, TOLD YESTERDAY'S
PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE WAS ONLY TELLING THE TRUTH BUT LATER
SAID MOST OF THAT PART OF THE SPEECH EMPHASIZING THESE POINTS,
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FOR WHICH HE HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY MEMBERS OF THE LABOR PARTY

IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT, HAD ACTUALLY NOT BEEN DELIVERED AS THEY WERE DELETED BEFORE HE GAVE THE SPEECH IN NEW YORK. SNEDDEN SAID THAT SPEECH QUOTED WAS DISTRIBUTED BEFORE HE LEFT AUSTRALIA ON HIS TOUR AND THAT THESE COPIES HAD NOT HAD THE "OFFENDING" PASSAGES DELETED.

4. WHEN REPORTERS PERSISTED IN PURSUING THIS LINE OF QUESTIONING SNEDDEN STOOD UP AND LEFT PRESS CONFERENCE, ABRUPTLY BRINGING IT TO AN END.

5. BEFORE LEAVING, SNEDDEN EMPHASIZED HE MET SEVERAL SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS DURING HIS TRIP, AND WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT UPSET THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD MET FORMER BEATLE GEORGE HARRISON AT THE WHITE HOUSE WHILE HE, SNEDDEN, WAS POINTEDLY EXCLUDED.

6. THE REST OF SNEDDEN'S ATTENUATED CONFERENCE DEALT WITH COMMENTS ON POLICY QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN HIS ABSENCE AND ON WHICH HE WAS BRIEFED BY HIS DEPUTY, PHILLIP LYNCH, WHO HAD FLOWN FROM SYDNEY ESPECIALLY TO BRIEF HIM ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740370-0579
From: MELBOURNE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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